

2025 NEWSLETTER

Association for Reading and Writing in Asia

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The general information about 2025 conference

The 9th Annual Conference of the Association for Reading and Writing in Asia (ARWA 2025) was held in Cebu, Philippines from Feb. 27 to 28, 2025. This year, we invited four keynote speeches from renowned literacy experts. In addition, there were 80 oral and 40 poster presentations, which were delivered by researchers not only from Asia but also from three other continents, Oceania, North America, and Europe. The different speeches and presentations enriched our understanding of literacy acquisition and development by highlighting various mechanisms and factors that influence reading and writing processes across and/or unique to specific languages, scripts, learners, and contexts.

Special thanks go to the University of the Philippines Cebu Ugnayan ng Pahinungód Office for helping with much of the groundwork in Cebu. Also thanks the corporate sponsors that supported this conference.



ARWA 2025 conference Highlights

Prof. David L. Share presented his theory and research findings in the keynote speech titled “What makes a writing system efficient for the reader?”



The second keynote speech was presented by Dr. Heather Winskel who shared the particular challenges of the distinctive orthography of Thai poses to beginning readers and writers. Dr. Heather Winskel also discussed some future research directions.



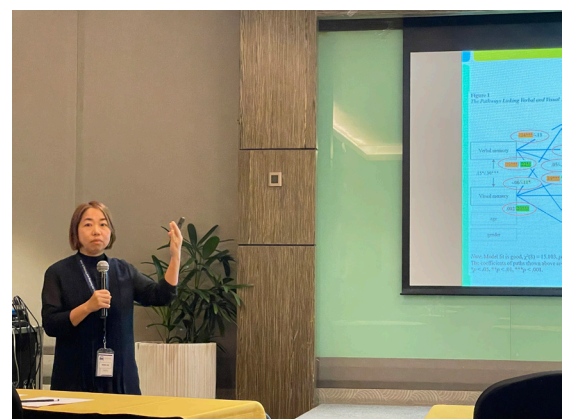
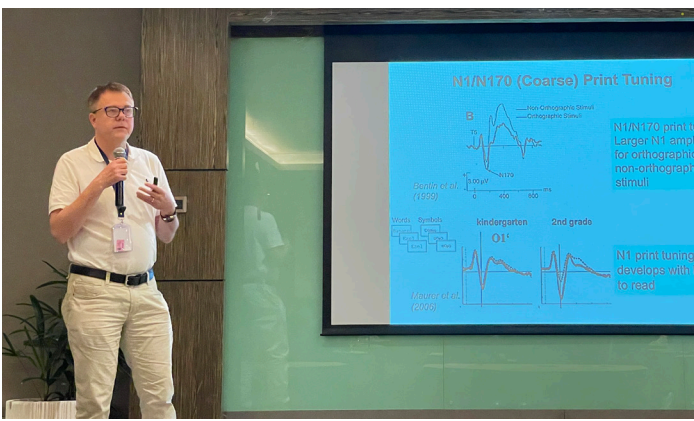
The third keynote speaker, Dr. Beth Ann O’Brien, addressed issues of measuring reading fluency, particularly for silent reading, the relationship between reading skills, fluency and comprehension, and finally considerations for variation across writing systems. She emphasized that a better understanding of these issues will contribute to improved educational instruction, and diagnosis and treatment of learning disorders.



The fourth keynote speaker, Dr. John Everatt introduced some of the research that related to support the learning of reading and writing among those who are struggling in New Zealand. As part of his work, Dr. Everatt also looked at ways to reengage students in learning to read and at methods aimed at reducing some of the consequences of struggling with literacy.







ARWA 2025 Career Awards

Congratulations to the following two participants for winning the career awards for the ARWA 2025 conference!

ARWA Early Career Award

Shuting Huo

Shuting Huo is a Research Assistant Professor at the Department of Psychology, The Chinese University of Hong Kong. Her research interests include dyslexia, biliteracy, numeracy, and development of brain oscillations. She seeks to answer the question why children differ in the fundamental academic skills, i.e., word reading, arithmetic, and second language literacy (English). Her recent work utilizes neuroimaging methods, particularly EEG, to investigate cognitive neural mechanisms underlying the academic foundations in children. Her work appears in renowned international journals, including *Journal of Educational Psychology*, *Journal of Learning Disabilities*, and *Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience*. She serves as an ad-hoc reviewers for 10 academic journals such as *Reading and Writing*, *Journal of Learning Disabilities*, *Biological Psychology* etc.



ARWA Mid-Career Award

Sihui (Echo) Ke

Sihui (Echo) Ke is an Associate Professor at the Department of Chinese and Bilingual Studies, the Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU). Her primary research interest is second language reading and biliteracy development. She is also interested in Chinese applied linguistics, ESL/bilingual/foreign language education, as well as assessment and instruction. Her work has been published in international refereed journals such as *Applied Linguistics*, *Journal of Educational Psychology*, *Language Learning*, and *Reading Research Quarterly*. Her research has been funded by American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (2018 Research Priorities Initiative), Hong Kong UGC General Research Fund, Language Learning Early Career Research Grant, and the U.S. Department of Education. Currently, she is serving on the editorial board of *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications*, *Journal of Educational Psychology*, *Learning and Individual Differences*, among others.



The ARWA early career award aims to recognize a talented early-career researcher who shows outstanding research potential in an area of reading and writing research that is related to Asia. The award winner will receive a 2000HKD (about 255USD) cash prize and a certificate.

The ARWA mid-career award aims at recognizing a researcher who is currently in the middle of his/her career (approximately associate professor level or equivalent) and who has a distinguished research record in the area of literacy acquisition that is related to Asia in particular or more generally to cross-linguistic / cross-scriptal literacy acquisition.

Nominations will be elected by the ARWA Awards Committee based on scientific merit. ARWA is committed to supporting and promoting equality, diversity, and inclusion. The award recipient must be approved by the ARWA Board members based upon recommendation of the Awards Committee. The decision of the Board is final.

Nominations should be sent to the ARWA secretary (Prof. LI Su, lis@psych.ac.cn) by Sep 1 each year.

Please visit our web site for more details: <https://www.arwasia.org/about-5>.

ARWA 2025 Student Awards

Congratulations to the following three participants for winning the student scholarships for the ARWA 2025 conference!

Two winners from the Chinese regions:

Anna Jia-Jun Zhang Chinese University of Hong Kong, China

Presentation: Intergenerational transmission of literacy and numeracy: Do parent and child skills correlate?

Xintong Xu Hong Kong Polytechnic University, China

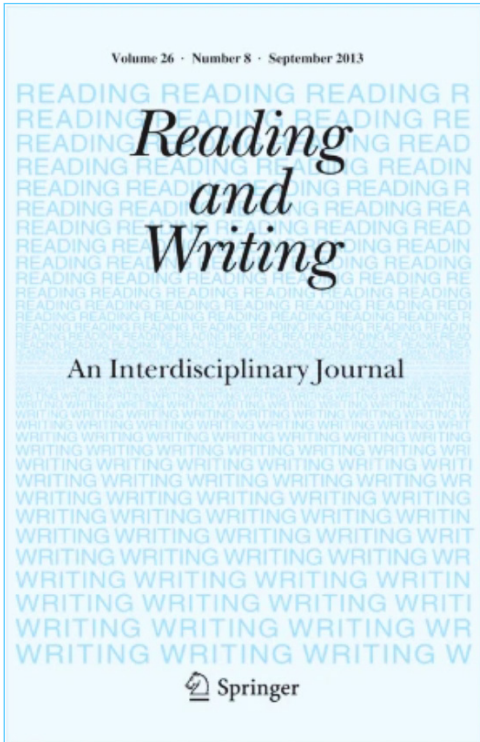
Presentation: What is Chinese orthographic learning via self-teaching? A systematic review and meta-analysis

One winner from the regions other than Chinese regions:

Sodam Kim Hallym University, Republic of Korea

Presentation: Word reading, word writing and phonological processing difficulties of Korean developmental dyslexic students: Preliminary analysis on linguistic transfer.

Conference Special Issue in Reading and Writing



Volume 35, Issue 4
April 2022
Special Issue: ARWA 2020
Issue Editor: Poh Wee Koh

Volume 37, Issue 4
April 2024
Special Issue: Selected Papers from the Association of Reading and Writing in Asia Conference 2021

Volume 37, Issue 7
September 2024
Special Issue: Selected papers from the Association of Reading and Writing in Asia conference 2022 and 2023
Issue Editor: Poh Wee Koh

10 articles in this issue

Introduction to the 2022 and 2023 special issues for the Association for Reading and Writing in Asia
Poh Wee Koh
EditorialNotes | 30 June 2024 | Pages: 1659 - 1662
Part of 1 collection: ARWA

As for previous conferences, there will be an ARWA 2025 Special Issue in the journal “Reading and Writing: An Interdisciplinary Journal”. The journal is accepting submissions to the ARWA 2025 special issue and the deadline for submission is now May 1, 2025.

The link to submit to the journal is <https://www.editorialmanager.com/read/default.aspx> where you will be requested to first enter your login details (or register an account if it is your first time submitting to the journal). After login, click “submit a new manuscript”, select the appropriate article type, then in Additional Information, select Yes to “Are you submitting this manuscript to a Topical Collection?”. To submit and ensure that the manuscript goes to the special issue, please select “SI: ARWA 2025” in the dropdown list for “Which Topical Collection?” You may also wish to refer to the link <https://www.springer.com/journal/11145/submission-guidelines?IFA> for the submission guidelines before submitting.

The Tenth Annual Conference: Advance Notice

ARWA to stage the 2026 conference in Taiwan

The synergy between ARWA and the Taiwan Academy for Learning Disabilities (TALD) is not merely a partnership but a convergence of visions that recognize the intricate relationship between learning disabilities and literacy development. TALD is comprised of a group of front-line practitioners and scholars who have long been dedicated to the practice and research of learning disabilities. Its mission is to promote the development of research, education, and welfare for learning disabilities. TALD aims to unify the ideas of scholars, physicians, and frontline clinical staff, working together to advance research, diagnosis, and education related to learning disabilities, and thereby advocate for the formulation of relevant policies.

Our conference will serve as a vibrant platform for researchers, practitioners, educators, and policymakers to share groundbreaking insights, cutting-edge research, and practical strategies that address the spectrum of reading and writing challenges encountered by students. This gathering is poised to foster a rich exchange of ideas, promote the dissemination of research findings, and encourage the development of practical applications that can make a significant impact on educational practices and policies across Asia.

Our collaboration represents a unique opportunity to bridge the gap between research and practice, facilitating a dialogue that is both regionally grounded and globally relevant. By bringing together the distinct strengths and focuses of TALD and ARWA, we aim to cultivate a comprehensive understanding of the complexities surrounding learning disabilities and literacy, encouraging a holistic approach to intervention and support.

We warmly invite the ARWA community to join us in this exciting journey towards innovation and discovery. Whether you are a seasoned researcher, a dedicated educator, or an engaged stakeholder, your participation and contributions will be invaluable to the success of our conference. Together, we can forge new pathways for enhancing the educational experiences and outcomes of individuals with learning disabilities across Asia.

Host an ARWA Annual Conference

Founded in 2016, ARWA exists to advance education by promoting the scientific study of reading and writing, as well as to understand related areas such as language and literacy.

A major way in which ARWA fulfils these objectives is by holding and/or organizing conferences. In particular, the Society sets great store by its annual conference. Since the first conference in 2017, attendance has grown and the influence of the Annual Conference is evident. ARWA now is seeking interested members to host the 11th (2027) and the 12th conference (2028). Your participation will greatly enhance the visibility of the Society and your research organizations!

For detailed information on how to host an Annual Conference, please contact arwaenquiry@gmail.com.

Become a part of us now !

Fees of yearly membership:

US\$ 100 Regular member

US\$ 80 Student member

We are happy to announce that 50% off special pricing is available for lower-to-middle income economies, as defined by the World Bank.

Please register at our website: www.arwasia.org and help us spread the word to your colleagues!